INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY: The Investigating Officer (I/O) for this case was Sergeant II Hamilton Alvarenga, Serial No. 37889, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) Criminal Investigation Division (CID), assigned to the Safe LA Task Force. I/O can be contacted at (213) 996-2765. Requests for supplemental investigation must be approved by the commanding officer, CID, via an Intradepartmental Correspondence, Form 15.02.

STATUTE DATE: After careful consideration, it was determined this case did not meet the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office protocol for the referral of allegations of criminal misconduct. There was no probable cause that existed to believe a crime was committed. Thus, the statute date remains **October 20, 2021.**

BACKGROUND: On May 25, 2020, Police Officers from the Minneapolis Minnesota Police Department (MPD) arrested an individual identified as George Floyd. While in their custody, Floyd died after he was pinned to the ground by multiple officers. The incident was captured on video which was quickly disseminated throughout the United States (US) via various media sources, including social media. After the release of the video, protests and ultimately civil unrest occurred throughout various cities in the US, including the City of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Police Department was mobilized to manage the protests and subsequent civil unrest. Part of the mobilization included officers who were assigned to Mobil Field Force (MFF) units. MMF units were used in part, to manage issues related to crowd control.

SUMMARY: On May 29, 2020, at approximately 2230 hours, Complainant (CP) Asim Jamal Shakir, was protesting on Spring Street between 5th Street and 6th Street. While protesting, he was recording the events with his cell-phone. As he protested, he observed his estranged uncle, who is Black, Police Officer II Eric Anderson, Serial No. 42100, Pacific Division Gang Enforcement Detail (GED), on the skirmish line of officers. Shakir attempted to get Anderson's attention by yelling at him. Anderson did not respond and continued his duties on the skirmish line with officers.

According to Shakir, Anderson directed an unknown officer who was standing nearby, to shoot Shakir with non-lethal projectiles. The projectiles struck him in the right-hand and buttocks, causing injury.

Click here to view Shakir's cellphone video clip:

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On October 20, 2020, Internal Affairs Group Detective III Charles Schlund, Serial No. 35549, Complaint Classification Unit (CCU) reviewed a link to an online news story which was posted by Jasmine Cannick, a local independent journalist, on her website (Addendum-1). The allegations of misconduct in the article compelled Schlund to generate this complaint investigation.

I/O reviewed Body Worn Video (BWV) footage of officers on skirmish line on the date and time in question. I/O can confirm that officers from North Hollywood and Pacific Divisions were present and were the officers involved in this alleged incident (Addendum-2) (Addendum-3). No other officers on scene or the skirmish line were relevant to this investigation.

> **Note:** The allegations in this complaint originated at the same time and location of a different complaint investigation; CF No. 20-001844. At the time Shakir's complaint was generated, the I/O had already interviewed officers from North Hollywood Division involved in complaint investigation, CF No. 20-001844. The I/O used the statements compelled in complaint investigation, CF No. 20-001844, as part of Shakir's complaint investigation, with the permission of the North Hollywood Division Officers involved (see interrogatory hyperlinks for further).

The following personnel were identified as part of this investigation. The officers were identified via BWV, compelled statements, and video taken by Shakir. The identified officers were most likely, based on their position on the skirmish line, with proximity to Shakir's position on the protest line, the officers that had the most exposure to Shakir. The I/O did not identify any other officer(s) on the skirmish line that had contact or exposure with Shakir;

Police Officer II Jesse Correa, Serial No. 42195, North Hollywood Division Patrol.
Sergeant I Christian Mejia, Serial No. 40255, North Hollywood Division Patrol.
Police Officer III Tony Chang, Serial No. 39958, North Hollywood Division Patrol.
Police Officer II Scott Fornaca, Serial No. 43281, North Hollywood Division Patrol.
Police Officer II Jonathan Perez, Serial No. 43542, North Hollywood Division Patrol.
Police Officer II Bryan Hoefler, Serial No. 36320, North Hollywood Division Patrol.
Police Officer II Justin Mascardo, Serial No. 39509, Pacific-LAX.
Police Officer II Christopher Muñoz, Serial No. 43256**,** Pacific Division Patrol.
Police Officer III Robert Bechtol, Serial No. 40436 Pacific GED.
Sergeant I Clinton Perez, Serial No. 40436, Pacific Division Patrol.
Police Officer II Eric Anderson, Serial No. 42100, Pacific Division GED.

The I/O was only able to identify one officer as being an accused employee (Anderson). The I/O was unable to identify the less-lethal operator(s) who allegedly shot Shakir in the hand and the buttocks. The I/O was unable to confirm through evidence other than Shakir's statement to the media and his attorney's Claim for Damages (CFD) that Shakir was shot with an LAPD less-lethal projectile. The I/O was refused an interview by Shakir and his attorney.

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ALLEGATIONS:

ALLEGATION 1: Complainant Shakir alleged that on May 29, 2020, Officer Anderson, while on-duty, instructed an unknown officer to shoot Shakir with a less lethal projectile.

ALLEGATION 2: Complainant Shakir alleged that on May 29, 2020, an unknown Officer, while on-duty, used unauthorized force by shooting Shakir twice with less lethal projectile.

ALLEGATION 3: Complainant Shakir alleged that on May 29, 2020, unknown Officer, while on-duty, shot Shakir with a less lethal projectile due to his race.

Note: See Investigator Note 1.

STATEMENTS:

Shakir[1] stated that on the evening of May 29, 2020, he was in his downtown apartment and observed a large crowd on the street, protesting and marching in formation with their fist in the air chanting, "Black lives, they matter here! Black lives, they matter here!" Shakir joined the protest shortly after and began live recording the incident on Instagram.

Within minutes of joining the protest, Shakir and other protesters were confronted by LAPD officers. Most officers were Latinx with only one visible Black officer. Shakir then attempted to engage the lone Black officer to express his disdain and disbelief that he could be dressed in uniform after what the protest meant.

Suddenly, a fire extinguisher or tear gas went off and the crowd began running down Spring Street towards 6th Street. The extinguisher or tear gas caused a large cloud of smoke and members of the crowd were running away from it. As this was happening, the police were still trying to push crowd members back. Shakir then moved back to the front of the skirmish line where he observed another Black officer who looked familiar. Shakir got closer and realized it was his uncle, Anderson. Shakir then attempted to get Anderson's attention to show him how surprised he was that he would be dressed in uniform at a time like that. However, Anderson, who was expressionless, just told him to go home.

Anderson was holding his baton and pointing with it, telling officers with guns, who to shoot at. Those officers, then would follow his orders. Shakir attempted to engage Anderson in dialogue once again, telling him their ancestors were rolling in their graves because Anderson was involved in the protest as an officer. Shakir also asked Anderson what his father would be thinking if he knew what his role was at the protest.

[1] Shakir's statements were retrieved from the online story Jasmin Cannick posted to her website (See Addendum-1), as well as a CFD received on December 21, 2020 (See Addendum-4).

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At that point, Anderson pointed his baton at him and directed one of the officers to shoot him with a nonlethal projectile. The officer initially hesitated because he overheard the conversation and knew they were related to each other. However, the officer then did as he was told, and shot Jamal in the hand, knocking his phone to the ground (Addendum-5).

Shakir picked up the phone but got hit once again, this time in the buttocks. This made Shakir believe he was intentionally targeted because he was shot not once, but twice. At that point, Shakir grabbed his phone and heard additional shots being fired. He then took off running, not knowing if officers were chasing after him at Anderson's request.

Shakir who was then dripping blood, ran away and was met by a female acquaintance, who was nearby, watching his Instagram live recording. She convinced him to go to the hospital and transported him to the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine Hospital. However, Shakir used a false name out of fear that Anderson would send officers to the hospital to find him.

Police Officer II Jesse Correa[2], Serial No. 42195, North Hollywood Division Patrol, stated that on May 29, 2020, he responded to protests that were occurring in Downtown Los Angeles. Once at the command post located on Judge John Aiso Street and Temple Street, he met with his squad leader, Sergeant I Christian Mejia, Serial No. 40255, North Hollywood Division Patrol.

Correa and his squad members subsequently responded to Spring Street and were met with violence by members of the crowd. Crowd members were throwing objects at police that could have caused physical harm; the objects were bricks, glass, and bottles. At one point, an unknown crowd member struck him in the right shin with a brick. Correa could not stop and seek medical treatment because the skirmish line was moving so he just reported the incident to his squad leader.

> **Note:** There is no investigative report (IR) indicating Correa was a victim of a crime pertaining to injuries sustained during the protests. However, the 2.14 form submitted by Mejia indicates officers were taking rocks and bottles on the skirmish line.

During his move through Spring Street, Correa deployed his 40mm launcher approximately six times at members of the public who were violently throwing things at officers. Additionally, each time he deployed the 40mm, his intended target was the abdomen area of the subjects he was shooting at. Due to the violence and loudness of the chaos and disorder, verbal warnings were not feasible.

[2] Correa provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on October 6, 2020, for CF No. 20-001844 which was entered in to CMS. On October 22, 2020, Correa responded to an interrogatory regarding Shakir.

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During this time, Correa was never instructed by Anderson or any other officer to shoot at Shakir. Additionally, Correa did not recall ever shooting at Shakir or shoot in his direction (Correa's Interrogatory).[3]

(Click here for Correa's Body Worn Video (BWV) clip)

Note: In Correa's video clip above, Shakir is seen to Correa's left approximately 10-15 feet away. The viewer will see a female with a pink sign throw an unknown item at officers. Shortly after, the sound of officers less lethal projectiles is heard.

Police Officer III Tony Chang[4], Serial No. 39958, North Hollywood Division Patrol, stated that on May 29, 2020, he was assigned to day-watch patrol. He began his shift at approximately 0600 hours. At the beginning of his shift, he removed his camera from the charging station dock, checked it for functionality, and attached it to his uniform to begin patrol duties. At the end of the shift, approximately 12 hours later, the city went into a tactical alert. He subsequently responded the command post near Temple Street and Judge John Aiso Street, where he met with his squad leader, Mejia. Mejia gave him less lethal responsibilities and assigned him to carry the 37-mm Less Lethal Launcher.

Shortly after, Chang and his squad deployed to the area of Downtown, near Spring Street. Once at scene, Chang took part in a skirmish line. During this time, the crowd members were violently resisting and throwing projectiles at officers. One officer had a brick thrown at his head which incapacitated him. Another officer had his leg cut open by a projectile. Both officers also had to be transported. Additionally, Chang was assaulted by members of the crowd with various types of fireworks, such as M80's. Chang's BWV did not capture these incidents because his BWV camera had a depleted battery due to having started his shift at 0600 hours and having already worked a full shift prior to the tactical alert.

[3] Correa gave I/O permission to use his statements for CF No. 20-001844 on this investigation.
[4] Chang provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on October 9, 2020, which was entered into CMS. Chang provided a response to I/O's interrogatory on October 28, 2020.

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Note: Chang advised I/O there was an Instagram video circulating on social media that showed him being assaulted by fireworks. Chang provided I/O with said video.

(Click here to watch video)

The video above shows Chang walking in front of the skirmish line as fireworks go off. Shakir is not seen in this video clip.

While Chang was on Spring Street between 3rd Street and 4th Street, he used the 37 mm launcher approximately 20-30 times. Each time, he deployed it due to violent crowd members who were throwing objects at officers. Chang deployed the 37 mm launcher by shooting at the ground, approximately 5 feet in front of the crowd members, the way he was trained. Chang advised the rounds are designed to skip off the ground and get a crowd of two or more members to disperse. During his time on Spring Street, Chang did not observe any officer use unauthorized force. Had he seen such actions, he would have first tried to stop such actions and report it to a supervisor.

Note: Based on the video of Chang posted above, I/O's investigation revealed Chang was near the center of the Skirmish line. It is unknown what the distance between Chang and Shakir was when the alleged incident occurred. However, based on Shakir's video, Shakier was approximately 15-20 feet away from any officers on the skirmish line as officers moved Southbound and subsequently fired less lethal munitions.

Chang answered an interrogatory questionnaire and advised he was never instructed by Anderson or any other officer to shoot specifically at complainant Shakir, nor did he recall ever having shot Shakir with the 37 mm less lethal launcher (Chang's Interrogatory).[5]

[5] Chang gave I/O permission to use his statements for CF No. 20-001844 on this investigation.

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> **Note:** I/O Alvarenga conducted a BWV audit trail on Chang's BWV which showed that at approximately 19:57 hours on May 29, 2020, his BWV battery only contained 4% battery life, which was consistent with Chang's statement (Chang's BWV Audit). Detective III Elliott Kane, Serial No. 36323, PSB, CID, Safe La Task Force, Investigative Branch Chief, advised a department allegation for failure to activate BWV will not be framed due to the circumstances surrounding Chang's time of deployment. Chang was not given the opportunity to re-charge his BWV prior to his deployment.

Police Officer II Scott Fornaca[6], Serial No. 43281, North Hollywood Division Patrol, stated that on May 29, 2020, he started work at 0630 hours. At the beginning of watch, he checked his BWV to ensure it was working properly. He worked a full 12-hour shift and was held over by the Watch Commander (WC) due to civil unrests in downtown Los Angeles. The WC ordered him to respond to the command post at Judge John Aiso Street and Temple Street to meet with Mejia. Upon arrival, he was briefed on MFF tactics and use of force criteria. Fornaca was subsequently assigned to carry a 40 mm less lethal launcher.

Fornaca and his squad of officers mobilized to the area of Spring Street in downtown Los Angeles. When Fornaca first arrived on Spring Street, he observed chaos amongst the crowd; there was smoke due to trash cans and vehicles on fire. Additionally, people where actively looting businesses that had broken windows, and fireworks were exploding close by. As the skirmish line moved southbound on Spring Street, Fornaca was on the left portion of the skirmish line, towards the east sidewalk.

Fornaca observed people in the crowd throwing various type of projectiles at officers such as: bricks, rocks, bags of glass, signs, fireworks, fire-extinguishers, and other type of hard items. Fornaca deployed the 40 mm approximately 9 times at people who were posing a threat by throwing items at police. Each time, his intended target was the naval area of the people he was shooting at.

> **Note:** There is no existing investigative report (IR) indicating Fornaca was a victim of a crime pertaining to injuries sustained during the protests. However, the 2.14 form submitted by Mejia indicates officers were taking rocks and bottles on the skirmish line.

Fornaca could not give a feasible warning to the intended targets because as soon he and the officers arrived and formed the skirmish line, crowd members were already throwing various objects at officers. While online, Fornaca was hit with a brick and injured; he later received onsite medical treatment. Fornaca could not decipher the genders of the people he was shooting at because most had face coverings, therefore he could not determine who he had shot at. Fornaca's BWV did not capture the incident during the mobile field force because he had already worked a full shift prior to deploying to the mobile field force; as such, his BWV had been on all day, and his battery was depleted.

[6] Fornaca provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on October 9, 2020, which was entered in to CMS. Fornaca provided a response to I/O's interrogatory questions on November 9, 2020.

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Fornaca subsequently answered an interrogatory questionnaire and advised he was never instructed by Anderson or any other officer to shoot specifically at complainant Shakir, nor did he recall ever having shot Shakir with the 40 mm launcher. Additionally, as mentioned earlier, Fornaca was on the east side of the skirmish line. Based on Shakir's location on the west side of the skirmish line, Fornaca was not within proximity of Shakir (Fornaca's Interrogatory).[7]

> **Note:** I/O Alvarenga conducted a BWV audit trail on Fornaca's BWV which showed that at approximately 19:57 hours on May 29, 2020, his BWV battery only contained 1% battery life, which was consistent with Fornaca's statement. (Fornaca's BWV Audit). Detective III Elliott Kane, Serial No. 36323, PSB, CID, Safe La Task Force, Investigative Branch Chief, advised a department allegation for failure to activate BWV will not be framed due to the circumstances surrounding Fornaca's time of deployment. Fornaca was not given the opportunity to re-charge his BWV prior to his deployment.

Police Officer II Jonathan Perez[8], Serial No. 43542, North Hollywood Division Patrol, stated that on May 29, 2020, he showed up to work and started at 10:00 am. When he checked out his camera, he believes he mistakenly grabbed a different camera than what he was assigned. Perez was unsure who's camera he grabbed and utilized all day, but suspected it was probably a camera that was flanking his own.

> **Note:** I/O confirmed Perez was mistaken when he believed he had accidentally obtained a different officers BWV. Perez used his own BWV on May 29, 2020 (See Investigator Note 2).

At approximately 2000 hours, a tactical alert notification was announced over the radio and he was advised by his WC to respond to the CP in downtown Los Angeles and meet with Mejia. Once at the CP he took on the responsibility of carrying the less lethal beanbag shotgun. At one point, Chief Michel Moore, Serial No. 23506, Chief of Police ordered his squad to provide re-enforcements to another squad on Spring Street.

Once on Spring Street, crowd members were throwing various objects at police. At one point, Perez was hit by a hard object on his right shin, however, he could not identify the suspect who threw it. It was difficult to identify the people throwing the items because they were positioned to the rear of crowd members. Additionally, people were also throwing items from the buildings above.

[7] Fornaca gave I/O permission to use statements he provided for CF No. 20-001844, on this investigation (see his interrogatory).
[8] Perez provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on October 9, 2020, which was entered in to CMS. Perez provided a response to I/O's interrogatory questions on November 3, 2020.

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> **Note:** There is no existing investigative report (IR) indicating Perez was a victim of a crime pertaining to injuries sustained during the protests. However, the 2.14 form submitted by Mejia indicates officers were taking rocks and bottles on the skirmish line.

Perez used the beanbag approximately 6 times while on Spring Street between 3rd Street and 4th Street. However, he only shot at people who posed a threat by actively throwing items at officers or subjects who would charge the line and attempt to hit officers.

Perez could not give a verbal warning because the situation was chaotic and loud. It would have been very difficult for the crowd to hear his commands given the chaos that was occurring. Perez' intended target area on the subjects he targeted was their navel area.

Furthermore, Perez never observed any officer use unauthorized force on any member of the public. Had he observed any unauthorized force being utilized, he would have attempted to stop the misconduct, and would have reported it to a supervisor.

Perez understands his BWV camera should have been "on" but does not remember if he turned on the BWV. However, based on his opinion and past experiences, it is possible the camera was possibly shut off by the beanbag sling, which interferes with the cameras on an off button because of the way it sits across the body, where the camera sits.

> **Note:** I/O conducted a BWV audit for May 29, 2020, on Perez' BWV. The audit revealed his BWV camera had 55% of battery life as of 8:57 P.M. (Perez's BWV Audit). Perez failed to turn on his BWV during the time he was on the skirmish line. An allegation of failure to activate BWV was alleged against Perez during the investigation of CF No. 20-001844. As mentioned earlier, complaint investigation, CF No. 20-001844, occurred at the same time and location as this complaint, thus, an allegation of failure to activate BWV will not be framed in this complaint investigation.

Perez was never instructed by Anderson or any other officer to specifically shoot at complainant Shakir, nor did he recall ever having shot Shakir with the beanbag shotgun. (Perez's Interrogatory)[9]

Police Officer II Bryan Hoefler[10], Serial No. 36320, North Hollywood Division Patrol, stated that on May 29, 2020, he started work at 0600 hours, assigned to a patrol car. On that day, he checked out his BWV camera an verified it was working properly. At the end of his regular shift, he was assigned MFF and was ordered to respond to an unusual occurrence in downtown Los Angeles. Hoefler met with Mejia at North Hollywood station and responded to the CP on Judge John Aiso Street and Temple Street. Hoefler was assigned to less lethal responsibilities and was responsible for carrying a 40 mm launcher.

[9] Perez gave I/O permission to use statements he provided during CF No. 20-001844, on this investigation.
[10] Hoefler provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on October 9, 2020, which was entered in to CMS. Hoefler also provided I/O answers to subsequent interrogatory questions on October 31, 2020.

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While waiting at the CP, Chief Moore drove up, exited his vehicle and gave them an order to go to 1st Street and Spring Street. Hoefler and his squad responded to the area of Spring Street and 1st Street, but eventually started moving southbound until they reached 2nd Street. While on the skirmish line, Hoefler was positioned behind the officers in front of the skirmish line because he was carrying a 40 mm launcher. He was on the east side of Spring Street, approximately 5-10 feet from the curb. At 2nd Street and Spring, members of the crowd were violent and actively throwing projectiles in the form of asphalt chunks from potholes on the street, at officers.

Hoefler remembered shooting his 40 mm launcher approximately 6 times at violent crowd members. Each time he used the launcher, he used it specifically at individuals who were throwing projectiles or other objects at officers. Hoefler never deployed the 40 mm launcher at members of the crowd who were not hostile, and he never shot anyone unnecessarily. Additionally, Hoefler had worked a full shift prior to responding to the civil unrests in Downtown LA. Near the end of his shift, at approximately 1700 hours, Hoefler noticed his camera's battery life was at 4%. Knowing he was going to get deployed to the civil unrests, Hoefler tried to charge his camera while he waited at North Hollywood Station. His camera went from 4% to 21% battery life. Once at the CP, things progressed extremely quickly. Hoefler had the responsibility of driving his vehicle and assisting Mejia. Once they arrived at the civil unrests on Spring Street, things were immediately chaotic. They began taking projectiles and fireworks almost immediately. In the immediate chaos, Hoefler forgot to turn on his camera despite having intended to specifically charge the camera for the civil unrests.

Additionally, Hoefler was never instructed by Anderson or any other officer to shoot specifically at complainant Shakir, nor did he recall ever having shot Shakir with the 40 mm launcher (Hoefler's Interrogatory)[11].

> **Note:** I/O conducted a BWV audit trail on Hoefler's BWV which showed that at approximately 2021 hours on May 29, 2020, his BWV battery contained 23% battery life, which was consistent with Hoefler's statement (Hoefler's BWV Audit). An allegation of failure to activate BWV was alleged against Hoefler during the investigation of CF No. 20-001844. As mentioned earlier, complaint investigation, CF No. 20-001844, occurred at the same time and location as this complaint, thus, an allegation of failure to activate BWV will not be framed in this complaint investigation.

Sergeant I Christian Mejia[12] stated that on May 29, 2020, he started his watch at 1630 hours. He checked out his BWV camera and ensured it was working properly. Later that evening, he and a squad of officers responded to the CP in Downtown LA for civil unrests. Mejia usually covers use of force policy and procedures during his roll calls but did not remember if he went over UOF procedures at the CP with his squad of officers.

[11] Hoefler gave I/O permission to use statements he provided during CF No. 20-001844, on this investigation
[12] Mejia provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on October 9, 2020, which was entered in to CMS.

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While he and his squad were at the CP waiting for a Lieutenant to set up the MFF configuration, Chief Moore and Assistant Chief Robert Arcos, Serial No, 26185, approached and ordered them to get out on Spring Street because officers were taking rocks. Mejia and his squad of deployed to Spring Street, between 1st Street and 2nd Street.

When they arrived on scene, the crowd members were loud, aggressive, and violent. Members of the crowd were throwing rocks and bottles, as well as fireworks at officers.

Mejia did not know whether an unlawful assembly had already been declared and did not know whether a commander or higher-ranking officer had authorized the deployment of 37 mm launchers. However, because of the violence they were encountering from crowd members, his understanding was that 37 mm were authorized. Mejia denies ever observing any officer use unauthorized force.

While on Spring Street, dealing with the crowd, Mejia thought his BWV had been on, but he was mistaken. When he was at the CP, his camera was off. When he was ordered to get to Spring Street, everything happened suddenly; things went from order to a chaos very rapidly. As soon as his unit got to Spring Street, people started throwing rocks at officers and several officers got injured. One officer on his squad sustained an injury to his leg. Additionally, Mejia himself, was hit in the head with a rock and suffered cuts to his arm.

> **Note:** There is no existing investigative report (IR) indicating Mejia was a victim of a crime pertaining to injuries sustained during the protests. However, the 2.14 form submitted by Mejia indicates officers were taking rocks and bottles on the skirmish line.

Mejia did not purposely fail to turn on his BWV camera. The totality of the circumstances given the chaotic scene of the violent crowd, coupled with multiple back-up calls being put out, affected his memory in remembering to turn on his BWV.

> **Note:** I/O conducted a BWV audit trail on Mejia's BWV which showed that at approximately 2019 hours on May 29, 2020, his BWV battery only contained 77% battery life. Mejia failed to turn on his BWV camera as required (Mejia's BWV Audit). An allegation of failure to activate BWV was alleged against Mejia during the investigation of CF No. 20-001844. As mentioned earlier, complaint investigation, CF No. 20-001844, occurred at the same time and location as this complaint, thus, an allegation of failure to activate BWV will not be framed in this complaint investigation.

Police Officer II Justin Mascardo[13], Serial No. 39509, Pacific-LAX, stated that on May 29, 2020, he was assigned to Pacific Division, Watch-7 patrol. During his shift, he was assigned to MFF capacity and subsequently responded staging area in Hollywood with his squad. At the staging location, he briefed his squad in use of force policy and procedure, as well as MFF tactics. Mascardo was assigned the 37 mm less lethal launcher.

[13] Mascardo provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on November 30, 2020, which was entered in to CMS.

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At approximately 1900 hours, Mascardo and his squad responded to Downtown Los Angeles due to the increasing civil unrest. Once there, they formed their skirmish line and organized squad groups. As they did so, he observed the crowd was becoming increasingly violent as he noticed an unknown person vandalizing a nearby police vehicle with a skateboard. Mascardo and his squad eventually moved southbound Spring Street between 3rd Street and 4th Street. While online, Mascardo used his 37 mm several times with the objective goal of dispersing an unruly crowd. Mascardo advised that the 37 mm is not a target specific weapon and is fired only at the ground approximately 5-10 feet in front of the subjects in question. Mascardo never intentionally fired the 37 mm directly at anyone. He followed the policy and procedure that he was trained with, by skipping the rounds off the ground. Mascardo denied officer Anderson ordering him to shoot at complainant Shakir. Additionally, Mascardo never intentionally shot at complainant Shakir.

Click here to watch Mascardo's BWV Clip

Note: The above video shows Mascardo's BWV footage from his vantage point. Shakir is not observed in the BWV clip, however, the less lethal discharge explosions are heard in the background.

I/O reviewed Mascardo's BWV footage, which confirms that there were approximately 4 less lethal projectiles fired from different officers during the time in which Shakir claims to have been hit. These four discharges happened before Mascardo fired his 37 mm weapon. Mascardo did not fire his weapon at the time Shakir was allegedly struck. The I/O was unable to identify the officer(s) who allegedly struck Shakir with less lethal projectiles.

Police Officer II Christopher Muñoz[14], Serial No. 43256, Pacific Division Patrol, was assigned to a mobile field force on May 29, 2020. His responsibility was to carry the 40 mm less lethal launcher and cover officer Mascardo when the situation presented itself. Muñoz responded to the mobile field force in the Downtown Los Angeles during the evening hours. Once there, he responded to the area of 2nd Street and Judge John Aiso Street. However, he and his squad eventually ended up on a skirmish line on Spring Street. When Muñoz and his squad responded

[14] Muñoz provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on December 3, 2020, which was entered in to CMS.

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to Spring Street between 2nd Street and 4th Street, he encountered a large crowd that was unruly by throwing projectiles at officers.

Muñoz deployed the 40 mm less than six times. He did not give a warning before using it because the crowd was violent and loud; giving a proper warning was not feasible at the time. He deployed the 40 mm on people that were posing an imminent threat. At the time he used it, people were throwing rocks and bottles and he used it on the people that posed a threat and were violent towards officers. Muñoz never shot the 40 mm at citizens that were not violent. When deploying the 40mm, he aimed at the abdomen area of the subjects in question.

Muñoz denied Anderson ever telling him that one of his family members were in the crowd. Additionally, Anderson never instructed him to shoot at Shakir or anyone else in the crowd. At the time of the incident, Muñoz was roving side to side, behind the skirmish line and was never attached solely to Anderson's position.

Click here to watch Muñoz's BWV Clip

Note: Muñoz BWV clip shows Shakir in the background, yelling at Anderson. He is approximately 15-20 feet away from Muñoz's location in this video.

Police Officer III Robert Bechtol[15], Serial No. 40436 Pacific Gang Enforcement Detail (GED). On May 29, 2020, Bechtol was deployed to a mobile field force to the area of Downtown Los Angeles, due to civil unrest. Less lethal UOF policy and procedure, as well as MFF tactics were covered by his squad before deploying. Bechtol's responsibility consisted of carrying the Beanbag Shotgun, as well as linebacker duties on the right side of the skirmish line. The skirmish line was comprised of various officers from different divisions, therefore, Bechtol did not know who all the officers were.

An unlawful assembly had been declared and the crowd members had been ordered to leave the area, to no avail. The demeanor of the crowd changed as officers began to move southbound on Spring Street. Some people in the crowd began to throw items at officers. The people who were throwing items, were identified through clothing descriptors by officers who would call them out, so other officers could be aware of the danger. Bechtol described the atmosphere on the line was very chaotic and violent.

[15] Bechtol provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on December 3, 2020, which was entered in to CMS.

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Bechtol's camera did not capture the incident that generated this complaint because at an unknown point on the skirmish line, he either slung or unslung his beanbag shotgun and it must have dislodged his camera from his uniform. Once they had pushed southbound and had a lull in the action, Sergeant I Clinton Perez, Serial No. 40436, Pacific Division, GED, approached him with a camera in hand and asked if he was missing his camera. Perez had found the camera on the ground at some point.

When necessary, Bechtol deployed the Beanbag Shotgun by shooting at crowd members who were throwing items at officers. Violent crowd members were called out by adjacent officers on the skirmish line but were also identified by Bechtol as his squad moved on the skirmish line. Bechtol always aimed at the navel, and beltline on the subjects he was targeting. When Bechtol used the Beanbag Shotgun, a verbal warning was not feasible for the situation because it was a chaotic and loud.

Furthermore, had Bechtol observed any officer on the skirmish line use unauthorized force of any kind on any member of the public, he would have reported it to his supervisor.

> **Note:** I/O conducted a BWV audit trail on Bechtol's BWV, which showed that on May 29, 2020, at approximately 22:02 hours, his BWV was turned off, but only contained 38% battery life. The camera was later turned on at 05:11 hours on May 30, 2020 (Bechtol's BWV Audit). Detective III Elliott Kane, Serial No. 36323, PSB, CID, Safe LA Task Force, Investigative Branch Chief, advised a department allegation for failure to activate BWV will not be framed due to the circumstances surrounding Bechtol's BWV deployment. Bechtol's BWV deployment was corroborated by his squad leader, Sergeant Perez.

Bechtol was next Anderson for most of the night on the skirmish line. At the time, and prior to moving Southbound on Spring Street, and unknown person who Bechtol now recognizes as Shakir, because of this complaint, was calling out Anderson's name, trying to get his attention. At some point during the incident and while online, Anderson mentioned to Bechtol that the male in the crowd was related to him. However, Anderson, never instructed him to shoot at Shakir at any time.

Sergeant I Clinton Perez, Serial No. 40436, Pacific Division [16] indicated that on May 29, 2020, he was working as the Supervisor for the GED Unit and started watch at in approximately 1200 hours ("Noon") because his Unit was to assist the Pacific Narcotics Unit with Search Warrants. After the Search Warrants, at approximately 1900 hours, he and his squad responded to Downtown Los Angeles due to civil unrest. Perez and his squad first responded to the CP staging area near Judge John Aiso Street and 1st Street, where he met with the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the incident.

[16] Perez provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on December 10, 2020, which was entered in to CMS.

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Prior to deploying to interact with the protestors, Perez covered policy and procedure regarding UOF and MFF tactics considerations.

Perez also ensured that his Unit members were clear about the use of the 37 mm, 40 mm, and the Beanbag Shotgun. Perez assigned Mascardo to carry the 37 mm with 22 rounds. Mascardo was the only officer in his squad carrying a 37 mm.

Perez was trained to carry the 37 mm less lethal launcher when he was in Metropolitan Division. He stated that the 37 mm is designed to have the effect of crowd dispersal when used properly. The round is to be shot and skipped off the ground at approximately 5-10 feet in front of a crowd. The round is supposed to skip off the ground and hit the crowd members, with the desired effect of dispersing the crowd.

At no time during the incident, did Perez observe an officer carrying a 37 mm launcher violate policy and procedure.
However, based on his training and experience, it is possible for someone to accidentally get struck in the face or other body part with a 37mm foam projectile, even when following policy and procedure.

Perez and his squad eventually deployed to the area of Spring Street and 2nd Street where they were met by a violent crowd. At the time, an unlawful assembly had already been declared. There was a sound truck at scene and an airship had been giving dispersal orders from above. The crowd was volatile, screaming and yelling obscenities at officers. Furthermore, the crowd began throwing numerous items that could have caused injury at officers.

As his squad moved southbound, Perez and his squad were intermixed with other squads from different divisions. Therefore, he was not the only supervisor on scene. As they moved south, Perez observed some pushing going on at the right side of the skirmish line while they were on 2nd Street and Spring Street. Perez did not observe any officer deviate from policy and procedure in any capacity with respect to UOF. Had he observed such any deviation, he would have addressed the issue immediately by pulling the officer off the line and taking further appropriate actions.

Perez stated that Anderson never mentioned to him that his nephew was in the crowd. Additionally, from his independent recollection at the time of the incident, he never heard officer Anderson tell anyone to shoot at complainant Shakir. However, after reviewing Anderson's BWV footage, he observed that Anderson was calling out people in the crowd that were violent and throwing things. He would then relay this information to other officers on the line.

> **Note:** During his interview, Perez was asked if he ever found an officers BWV on the ground and later returned it to the officer. Perez could not remember who that officer was but confirmed he had found a BWV on the ground and handed it to an unknown officer, corroborating Bechtol's statements.

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Police Officer II Eric Anderson[17] Serial No. 42100, Pacific Division Gang Enforcement Detail, stated that on May 29, 2020, he started his watch at 0600 hours because of search warrants that needed to be served. Near the end of his shift, he was assigned to respond to Downtown Los Angeles due to civil unrest. He and his squad responded to a staging area near Judge John Aiso Street but subsequently responded to Spring Street to deal with an unruly crowd.

On Spring Street, crowd members were yelling and chanting, as well as throwing numerous items at officers. The items included rocks, glass bottles, bleach, and numerous other items. Anderson was hit by rocks in the leg multiple times, as well as on the helmet shield. Anderson also observed multiple officers get hit with rocks on the skirmish line.

While online, Shakir started yelling at him and Anderson recognized him as his nephew. Shakir was screaming, telling him his ancestors would be rolling in their grave if they saw what he was doing. Anderson feared for Shakir's safety because people in the crowd behind Shakir, were throwing things at officers. Anderson feared Shakir would get hit with the items being thrown. At the same time, Anderson also worried that officer's reaction to people throwing objects may also cause Shakir to get hit by less lethal projectiles that officers would have to launch in response. Anderson did not want Shakir to get hurt or injured so he told him to go home, to no avail. Anderson never ordered any officer equipped with less lethal launchers to intentionally shoot at his nephew, Shakir.

Click here for Anderson's BWV Clip-1

Note: In this clip you will see Shakir attempt to engage Anderson in dialogue for the first time.

SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

[17] Anderson provided I/O with a digitally recorded compelled interview on November 30, 2020, which was entered in to CMS.

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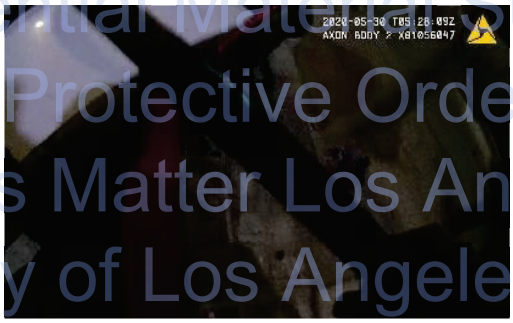

Click here for Anderson's BWV Clip-2

Note: In this clip you will see the moments that led up to and after Shakir was allegedly struck with less lethal munitions.

Anderson's BWV footage refutes Shakir's claim that Anderson directed another officer to shoot at him. At the time Shakir was struck, Anderson and his squad of officers were moving forward in a skirmish line. A member of the crowd threw an unknown item at officers and less lethal discharge sounds were heard shortly after. Anderson was quiet as this occurred. The video clips above did not capture Anderson give anyone directions to shoot at Shakir.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES

1. A Claims for Damages (CFD) was received by Internal Affairs Group on December 21, 2020. The CFD documented issues that were consistent with the allegations described by Shakir in the online news article (Previously identified as Addendum-1).

   However, on page 3 of the CFD, Shakir's Attorney, Carl Douglas, documents that none of the officers involved in the incident were African American, except for Anderson. The CFD further documents that implicit bias is the reason Shakir was shot with projectiles by unknown officer(s) (Addendum-4).

   Detective III Elliott Kane, Serial No. 36323, PSB, CID, Safe LA Task Force Investigative Branch Chief, contacted Sergeant II Rhiannon Talley, PSB, Biased Policing Coordinator. Talley advised that due to the investigation not identifying an officer(s) that actually hit Shakir with a less-lethal projectile and due to the fact that the investigation did not confirm that Shakir was actually hit with a less -lethal projectile, biased policing protocol did not apply in this investigation. Talley further advised that asking the individual officers in this investigation biased policing related questions would have no bearing on the adjudication on a biased policing allegation due to the fact the alleged less-lethal operator that shot Shakir, remains unknown. Talley recommended that the department add an allegation of bias policing against an unknown officer. Based on Talley's

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recommendation, Allegation 3 was added against unknown officer and biased policing protocol questions were not needed to adjudicate the allegation.

2. On May 29, 2020, Police Officer II Jonathan Perez was assigned to work with Police Officer II Mark Powell, Serial No. 43546, Unit 15A68, Watch 4. Prior to responding to the civil unrest, at approximately 1700 hours, Perez and Powell responded to a vandalism investigation where they made a subsequent vandalism arrest (Incident No. 20052900003642). Powell and Perez's BWV show the same incident. This confirms that Perez was mistaken when he believed he had someone else's BWV. I/O's investigation concludes Perez had his own BWV camera on him when he responded to the civil unrest.

3. CF No. 20-001844, and this complaint, CF No. 20-003115, both happened at the same moment in time and in the same vicinity. I/O completed the investigation of CF No. 20-001844 prior to Shakir's complaint investigation. During the investigation of CF No. 20-001844, allegations of failure to turn on BWV's were made against Mejia, Hoefler, and Perez. Those same allegations will not be alleged during this complaint, as they have already been addressed.

   Allegations for failure to turn on their cameras were not made against Chang, and Fornaca, as their camera battery had already been depleted, due to having worked a longer than expected shift.

   An allegation for failure to turn on his BWV was not made against Bechtol, because during the incident, his camera fell off his uniform. These statements were corroborated by his squad leader, Sergeant Perez.

4. On October 20, 2020, at 1743 hours, Anderson was interviewed by Captain I Brian Morrison, Serial No. 30789, and Sergeant I Paul Aeschlimen, Serial No. 33888, Pacific Division. Sergeant Mark Kelly, 26477, Officer Representation Section, was present during the interview as a representative.

   Morrison conducted this interview to gather information pertaining to Anderson's safety and wanted to confirm whether other resources were needed to ensure Anderson's safety. Anderson had advised Morrison he was concerned Black Lives Matter activists would show- up to his house and create a disturbance. However, he was not concerned by Shakir by himself.

5. On October 27, 2020, at approximately 1025 hours, I/O responded to Shakir's residence located at 215 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 for interview. However, Shakir was not home. I/O left a business card at his door and with the lobby attendant, who provided I/O with Shakir's phone number.

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On October 27, 2020, at approximately 1325 hours, I/O contacted Shakir via telephone at his listed phone number of 678-338-0162. Shakir answered the call but refused to provide an interview, citing he needed to be in a meeting.

On October 27, 2020 at approximately 1430 hours, Shakir's Attorney, Carl Douglas, called I/O and advised he would refuse to give I/O an interview with Shakir. I/O was therefore, unable to obtain Shakir's medical records or further statements for this investigation.

6. As mentioned in Investigator Note 3, Complaint Number 20-001844, and this complaint, happened in the same general vicinity at the same exact time. The complainant on CF No. 20-001844, is Emily Vernon. Vernon recorded a video which she posted on her Instagram account. Vernon's video captures Shakir from her vantage point. Vernon's video was reviewed during the investigation of this complaint.

(Click here to see Vernon's video)

Note: The above picture depicts Shakir's position according to Vernon's Instagram Video.

7. Upon extensive review of Anderson's BWV footage, I/O determined Anderson called out numerous threats to other officers on the skirmish line. However, Anderson never instructed any officer to shoot at his nephew, Shakir.

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ADDENDA:

1. Online News Article.
2. North Hollywood Division's Squad 211/214 forms.
3. Pacific Division's Squad 211/214 Forms.
4. Claims for Damages.
5. Picture of Shakir's Bloodied Right Hand.

SUBMITTED:

Detective III Elliott Kane, FOR

HAMILTON ALVERANGA, Sergeant
Criminal Investigation Division - Safe LA Task Force
Professional Standards Bureau

APPROVED:

Detective III Elliott Kane, FOR

DAVID HWANG, Lieutenant
Criminal Investigation Division
Professional Standards Bureau

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